

# IRS News Release

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## Home Computer Filing Shows Strong Growth in 2006

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WASHINGTON — The Internal Revenue Service announced today that taxpayers are continuing to e-file from home computers at a record pace, up almost 17 percent from the same period last year.

“People using tax preparation software is driving the increase in e-filing,” said IRS Commissioner Mark W. Everson. “Taxpayers can rely on e-file as a safe, accurate way to quickly finish their taxes and get a refund.”

So far this tax filing season, 70 percent of all returns have been e-filed, compared to 68 percent for the same period last year. As of last Friday, 28 percent of e-filed returns were filed by people using their home computers, up from 25 percent of e-filed returns for the same period last year.

More than 13 million returns have been filed this tax season by people e-filing from the comfort of their own homes, up from just over 11 million for the same period last year.

Also, more people are choosing to have their tax refunds directly deposited than ever before. So far this year, the IRS has directly deposited almost 40 million refunds, or 70 percent of all refunds issued this tax filing season, up from 67 percent of the total for the same period last year.

People are also visiting the IRS Web site – IRS.gov – in record numbers. The IRS has recorded almost 84 million unique visits to IRS.gov this year, up from 80 million for the same period last year, an increase of 6.5 percent.

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[Note, the filing season statistics for the week ending March 17, 2006, are on the following page.]

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**2006 FILING SEASON STATISTICS**

Cumulative through the weeks ending 3/18/05 and 3/17/06

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>% Change</u>
<b>Individual Income Tax Returns</b>			
Total Receipts	67,377,000	67,077,000	-0.4
Total Processed	63,455,000	62,726,000	-1.1
<b>E-filing Receipts:</b>			
TOTAL	45,936,000	46,874,000	2.0
Tax Professionals	32,064,000	33,664,000	5.0
Self-prepared	11,329,000	13,210,000	16.6
Telefile	2,543,000	NA	NA
<b>Web Usage:</b>			
Unique visits to IRS.gov	78,512,013	83,586,558	6.5
<b>Total Refunds:</b>			
Number	56,279,000	56,320,000	0.1
Amount	\$128.820 billion	\$133.993 billion	4.0
Average refund	\$2,289	\$2,379	4.0
<b>Direct Deposit Refunds:</b>			
Number	37,949,000	39,765,000	4.8
Amount	\$99.208 billion	\$107.529 billion	8.4
Average refund	\$2,614	\$2,704	3.4